

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06446 291610Z
ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8002
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
"AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2602
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6446

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (PELL, CLAIBORNE), PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: CODEL PELL MEETING WITH GOI MINISTER OF DEFENSE

SUMMARY: CODELL PELL, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND ARMY
ATTACHE, CALLED ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN ON
AUGUST 26. DURING THE HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION, PRIMARILY
FOCUSED ON WEST BANK SITUATION, MINISTER COMMENCED WITH
HARD LINE POSITION THAT ISRAEL INTENDED TO STAY ON THE
JORDAN RIVER BUT IN LAST FIVE MINUTES ENDED WITH STATEMENT
THAT THE WEST BANK, AS WITH ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, IS
OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION AND "WE ARE NOT AS STUBBORN AS WE
SOUND." END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER WEIZMAN WELCOMED CODEL AND IMMEDIATELY
LAUNCHED INTO IMPASSIONED AND EMOTIONAL LECTURE ABOUT
THE WEST BANK, DRAWING UPON HISTORY AND THE BIBLE TO
SUPPORT HIS STAND. POSING THE RHETORICAL QUESTION
"IS PALESTINE A JEWISH LAND - YEA OR NAY?" HE DREW
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06446 291610Z

UPON THE FACT THAT ONLY TWO STAES (UK AND PAKISTAN)
HAD EVER RECOGNIZED WEST BANK AS BEING A PART OF
JORDAN AND THUS "WE TOOK AWAY FROM HUSSEIN WHAT DIDN'T
BELONG TO HIM."

2. WEIZMAN THEN ATTACKED PREVIOUS ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS,
SAYING THAT FOR TEN YEARS THEY HAD TALKED REAL ESTATE

AND NOT PRINCIPLE, FOR ALL PALESTINE IS A JEWISH LAND BY RIGHT AS SET FORTH IN THE BIBLE AND IMPLIED IN THE BALFOUR AGREEMENT. HE CHARGED THAT THE RABIN ADMINISTRATION HAD SOLD THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AS BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT OCCUPIED TERRITORY AS REGARDS THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL. "THIS IS WRONG - THE WEST BANK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT - AND WE ARE GOING TO STAY ON THE JORDAN."

3. IN HIS PRESENTATION, WEIZMAN DWELT UPON THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ARABS LIVE BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. STATED THEY LIVE BETTER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THAT THEY MIGHT NOT LIKE LIVING UNDER ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. HE DESCRIBED THE BASIC PROBLEM AS FINDING A WAY FOR ARABS AND JEWS TO LIVE TOGETHER. HE BELIEVES THAT BY STANDING BY WHAT THEY BELIEVE, ISRAEL WILL CONVINCE THE ARABS THAT THEY HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH THE ISRAELIS.

4. WEIZMAN SAID THAT GIVING UP THE WEST BANK WOULD NOT ENSURE PEACE IN THE REGION AND THEREFORE THE JORDAN RIVER WAS IMPORTANT FROM A DEFENSIVE POINT OF VIEW. ALTHOUGH HE HAD EARLIER DESCRIBED THE "ALLON PLAN" AS NONSENSE, HE LATER STATED THAT PERHAPS AN APPROACH ALONG THE LINES OF THAT PLAN MIGHT BE FEASIBLE. ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO HAVE EARLY WARNING CAPABILITIES ON THE WEST BANK AND THE RIGHT TO MOVE MILITARY FORCES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06446 291610Z

AREA. IN THE FINAL FIVE MINUTES OF THE DISCUSSION WEIZMAN ABRUPTLY CHANGED COURSE AND STATED THAT THE WEST BANK SITUATION IS OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION AS ARE ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MAKING NO EFFORT TO DISGUISE HIS EARLIER POSITION AS ONE ISRAEL INTENDED TO USE FOR OPENERS, HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING: "WE ARE NOT AS STUBBORN AS WE SOUND."

5. IN HIS DISCUSSION ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, WEIZMAN INSISTED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO UNDERSTAND THAT ZIONISM REPRESENTS MORE THAN SIMPLY SAFE AND SECURE BORDERS. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN APOLOGIZING SINCE 1967 "FOR SAVING OUR NECKS" AND NOW ISRAEL INTENDS TO STAND BY WHAT SHE BELIEVES: ZIONISM AND THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PALESTINE. HE FURTHER SAID THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT U.S. GUARANTEES AS A FEASIBLE PART OF A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. IN HIS VIEW THE U.S. IS "AFRAID OF THE WORLD AND THE EXAMPLES OF CUBA, ANGOLA AND VIETNAM DO NOT PERSUADE ME THAT U.S. GUARANTEES WILL KEEP ME ALIVE." WHEN SENATOR PELL CHALLENGED WEIZMAN BY QUERYING WHAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL DECLINED AS A

RESULT OF A LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT,
WEIZMAN COUNTERED BY ARGUING THAT ISRAEL IS THE ONLY
DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND "WOULD THE GREATEST
DEMOCRACY (U.S.) SACRIFICE THE SMALLEST FOR A PINT
OF OIL?"

6. IN RESPONSE TO THE SENATOR'S QUERY ON ISRAELI
DEFENSE NEEDS, WEIZMAN FIRST EXPRESSED ISRAEL'S DEEP
AND EVERLASTING APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT AND
WENT ON TO SAY THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE FORCED TO RELY
UPON THE U.S. FOR FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT OF ITS FORCES.
HE HOPES THE U.S. WILL ALSO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT
ISRAELI DEFENSE INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT
PRODUCTION. HE SADI HE WOULD BE PRESENTING A
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 06446 291610Z

DETAILED PLAN TO SECDEF DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT.
WHEN ASKED AGAIN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF U.S. SUPPORT
DECREASED, WEIZMAN STATED ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO
"TIGHTEN OUR BELTS AND USE OUR BRAINS." THE RESULT
10 TO 15 YEARS FROM NOW WOULD BE A GREATER AND
STRONGER ISRAEL, INCLUDING THE WEST BANK, WHICH HE
HOPED WOULD ATTRACT MORE JEWS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN
AT LEAST A TWO-THIRDS POPULATION MAJORITY. INCLOSING
THIS PART OF CONVERSATION WEIZMAN SAID THAT THE JEWS
WILL NOT REPEAT THE EXPERIENCES OF THE CRUSADERS BY
DISAPPEARING FROM THE AREA AFTER A RELATIVELY SHORT
EXISTENCE, BUT WILL SURVIVE AS A ZIONIST STATE.

7. THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CODEL
PELL WHO MAY WISH TO ADD OR AMEND UPON RETURN TO
WASHINGTON.LEWIS

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TAGS: OREP, PBOR, IS, JO, (PELL, CLAIBORNE), (WEIZMAN, EZER)
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